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Claims

1. Device for receiving and holding a plurality of unit doses of a detergent composition and for individually dispensing the unit doses into an automatic dishwashing machine over a plurality of washing cycles, wherein the device comprises

(i) a housing adapted to receive the plurality of unit doses, each separately contained in a compartment of a plate, the unit doses being arranged along the circumference thereof;

(ii) means for opening a compartment or for ejecting a unit dose therefrom; and

(iii) means to allow access of wash liquor to the unit dose contained in the opened compartment or ejected therefrom, within a controlled time period to allow dissolution of the unit dose into wash liquor of the machine.

2. Device according to claim 1, wherein a holding pocket is provided to receive and hold the unit dose when ejected from the compartment, and means to control the access of wash liquor to said holding pocket.

3. Device according to claim 1, wherein the access of wash liquor to the unit dose (2;2'), when retained in

5 the opened compartment, is via a passageway, the device having means to controllably open and close the passageway.

4. Device according to claim 2 or 3, wherein the holding pocket or passageway is provided with a hinged or  
10 sliding door.

5. Device according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the access of wash liquor to the unit dose retained in the opened compartment or ejected therefrom is controlled by means reactive to a  
15 condition reached during the washing cycle of the machine.

6. Device according to claim 5, wherein the access of wash liquor to the unit dose retained in the opened compartment or ejected therefrom is controlled by  
20 means reactive to the temperature of the wash liquor.

7. Device according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the access of wash liquor to the unit dose retained in the opened compartment or ejected therefrom is time controlled.

25 8. Device according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the means for ejecting the unit dose from the compartment comprises an ejector acting on a face of the compartment.

5 9. Device according to any of claims 1 to 7, wherein the  
means for opening the compartment comprises a piercing  
or cutting means to penetrate a wall of the  
compartment.

10 10. Device according to any of the preceding claims,  
being adapted to be a portable, preferably self-  
standing, device.

11. Device according to any of the preceding claims,  
wherein the unit dose is a detergent or detergent  
additive tablet.

15 12. Blister pack according to any of claims 1 to 10,  
wherein the unit dose is a detergent or detergent  
additive gel.